the claims of various systems of Alternative Medicines including electropathy, a Standing Committee of Experts has been set up under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR.The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which is under the process of examination.

Reimbursement of expenses for treatment in private hospitals

2703. SHRIRUMANDLARAMACHANDRAIAH:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full reimbursement of expenses incurred for treatment in private hospitals is not made to>Government pensioners though prior permission is obtained from CGHS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to simplify the procedure to help senior citizens who are CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedures at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/Government hospitals/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been entered into by Director, CGHS with each of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi *vide* Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 which binds the hospitals not to charge CGHS beneficiaries (both serving andpensioners) over and above the ceiling rates for various medical procedures/tests/investigations fixed by the Government in the said O.M. Further, in the case of emergency conditions mentioned in the MOA, the private hospitals recognised under CGHS shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the CGHS beneficiaries and shall provide credit facilities to the patient on production of a valid CGHS Token Card.

Similar MOA would be entered into by the CGHS with all the private hospitals as and when they get recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities all over India.